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VALIDATING DVB-H

Tests Verify Interoperability Of Specification & Highlight Outstanding Performance.

Geneva – 14 February 2005 – In a ringing endorsement of the DVB-H specification, DVB has approved a significant report verifying its performance. The result of much work and effort by a dedicated group of DVB member company experts, the ‘Final Report of the DVB-H Validation Task Force’ has upheld the technical decisions which led to the DVB-H standard, recently published by ETSI as EN 302 304.

The Validation Task Force for DVB-H carried out laboratory tests with T-Systems in Berlin and field trials in Metz, France hosted by TDF using equipment from a variety of different DVB-H equipment vendors. The work sought to verify the interoperability of equipment across all of the DVB-H modes, and to verify the RF performance of DVB-H in a handheld environment compared to DVB-T.

Gérard Faria (TeamCast), the leader of the Validation Task Force, stated “The results showed that in a mobile environment DVB-H has, with its additional MPE-FEC advanced forward error correction scheme, a 5-9dB advantage over an equivalent DVB-T mode. Furthermore, the figures show that the performance of DVB-H remains constant up to speeds approaching Mach 1.”

Peter MacAvock, DVB’s Executive Director said “DVB has worked hard to finalise the DVB-H set of specifications. Verification forms an integral part of this work, and we are delighted that the results have been so positive. Work continues on the service aspects of DVB-H and IP datacasting – a complex activity at the heart of the convergence between broadcasting and telecommunications.”

Alongside the valuable work done by the Validation Task Force, a number of companies and organisations are collaborating on technical and/or commercial trials of the technology around the world. The locations for such trials include Helsinki, Berlin, Pittsburgh, Oxford and Sydney. Next month in Dublin, Nokia and RTE will collaborate on a live end-to-end demonstration to coincide with the DVB World 2005 International Conference.

The DVB-H Validation Task Force was composed of representatives from TeamCast, BBC, DiBcom, Fraunhofer IMK, Nokia, Panasonic, ProTelevision, Rohde & Schwarz, SIDSA, Sony, TDF, T-Systems and Thales.

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Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 250 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others in over 35 countries committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. The DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data. The consortium came together in 1993 to create unity in the march towards global standardisation, interoperability and future proofing.

To date, there are numerous broadcast services using DVB standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment, which is already in use around the world. DVB dominates the digital broadcasting world. A host of other services is also on-air with DVB-T, DVB-S and DVB-C including data on the move and high-bandwidth Internet over the air. Further information about DVB can be found at: www.dvb.org.

DVB-H (Handheld)

DVB-H is defined as a system where the information is transmitted as IP datagrams. Time slicing technology is employed to reduce power consumption for small handheld terminals. IP datagrams are transmitted as data bursts in small time slots. The front end of the receiver switches on only for the time interval when the data burst of a selected service is on air. Within this short period of time a high data rate is received which can be stored in a buffer. This buffer can either store the downloaded applications or playout live streams. The achievable power saving depends on the relation of the on/off-time. If there are approximately ten or more bursted services in a DVB-H stream the rate of the power saving for the front end could be around 90%.

DVB is a registered trademark of the DVB Project.

This press release is available in Chinese, Brazilian Portuguese and Latin American Spanish on the DVB website or by request.